

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 IO-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR, TU

SUBJECT: CLIFFORD APPEARANCE BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL
COMMITTEES ON EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SITUATION

1. SECRETARY CLIFFORD APPEARED BEFORE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS COMMITTEE MARCH 10 IN CLOSED SESSION AND WILL
MAKE SIMILAR APPEARANCE MARCH 11 BEFORE SENATE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO BRIEF ON HIS RECENT MISSION TO
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

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2. ALMOST ALL MEMBERS OF HIRC WERE PRESENT FOR TWO HOUR
SESSION. CLIFFORD WAS CANDID IN DISCUSSING NATURE OF HIS
CONVERSATIONS IN ATHENS, ANKARA AND NICOSIA AND IN SHARING
WITH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS WHICH HE HAD PERSONALLY DRAWN
FROM HIS MISSION. COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRAISED CLIFFORD MIS-
SION AND POSED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WHICH CLIFFORD ANSWERED

IN DETAIL. CLIFFORD DECLINED SAY WHAT FUTURE ADMINISTRATION POLICY WOULD BE, BUT DID INDICATE HE HAD MADE SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADMINISTRATION IN SEVERAL KEY AREAS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO TURKEY, CLIFFORD SAID HE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT ADMINISTRATION ENDORSE IN PRINCIPLE US-TURKEY DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT SINCE HE HAD CONCLUDED THAT THIS WAS BEST WAY TO STRUCTURE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH LONG-TIME

TURKISH ALLY. CLIFFORD SAID HE ALSO FAVORED IN PRINCIPLE US-GREECE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT, NEGOTIATION OF WHICH HE HOPED COULD BE RESUMED AND COMPLETED SHORTLY. CLIFFORD EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT PENDING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF TURKISH DCA, WHICH HE COULD NOT RECOMMEND AT THIS MOMENT, HE FAVORED AS INTERIM MEASURE A 1978 AUTHORIZATION FOR TURKEY OF DOLS 175 MILLION IN FOREIGN MILITARY SALES GUARANTEED LOANS AS WELL AS EARLY REMOVAL OF CEILING ON CASH FMS PURCHASES.

4. IN RESPONSE QUESTION ABOUT ASSISTANCE FOR CYPRUS, CLIFFORD SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE FURTHER CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR FY 1978 WAS REQUIRED, BUT SAID HE FAVORED RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORT ONCE CYPRUS SETTLEMENT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED.

5. DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE SHOULD QUESTIONS ON THESE SUBJECTS BE RAISED. WE ALSO ANTICIPATE THAT SECRETARY VANCE WILL ENUNCIATE US ASSISTANCE POLICY TOWARDS GREECE AND TURKEY WHEN HE APPEARS

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BEFORE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MARCH 16.

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